

THE PACIFIC

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

THURSDAY : : : : : JUNE 20

Steam is on in the Rapid Transit boilers, cars are being set up, the iron bridge over Nuuanu stream is about finished, crossings are going in and the right to parallel the mule track on King street has been granted. Good-bye, Pain.

The court's curt dismissal of the cases against Messrs. Cooper and McCandless shows that Oscar Lewis' forecasts of the outcome were correct. Mr. Lewis must miss the intimacy which no longer permit him to spot the future decisions of a court.

It is by no means certain that the coming naval town will be at Pearl City. An entirely new site may be preferred. There is a fine opportunity to build such a place on the uncondemned part of Ford island or at a place contiguous to the Bishop estate reservation.

The robbing of mango trees all over the city is a seasonal rite performed just before early mass and with increasing cleverness, by the Portuguese youth of Honolulu. Probably if one of them were arrested he would regard the matter as an infringement of his vested rights.

The disbandment of the mounted patrol would leave the suburbs unprotected, and the suburbs are the places in which certain kinds of crime are most likely to occur. We cannot understand the action of the Senate in this matter, except on the theory of indifference to the vital interests of Honolulu.

The way the wireless telegraph is being used to mislead the public of the other islands about the important news of Honolulu, is shown by this series of bulletins, consecutively printed, which the Star has received from Maui or Hawaii.

May 28, 1901, Hartwell, Ballou and Kinney pardoned by acting Governor Cooper before they were commanded to trial. J. L. Cooper of Kona before Grand Jury. Cooper is the man who gave information which Thurston refused to divulge. Thurston habeas corpus case postponed till Wednesday before Judge Frear.

May 31, 1901, Honolulu: Battleship Oregon in port.

June 1, 1901, Honolulu: Since the passage of resolutions condemning Judge Humphreys by thirty-seven members of the Bar Association, popular petitions backing Judge Humphreys have been circulated and already over 2,000 signatures have been secured. Thurston case argued before Frear; decision expected at noon. Governor Dole has returned from Wailanae and will go to Hawaii next week.

There is no bulletin of May 28th about the repudiation of Humphreys by the Bar Association nor a word about the offer of Humphreys' bailiff to pack a jury. On May 31st nothing more important was sent than the arrival of the Oregon. On June 1st a brief reference was made to the resolutions of "thirty-seven members of the Bar Association," coupled with the lie about a Humphreys petition with 2,000 signatures. The whole scheme of this wireless fake bulletin company has been to give the outsiders doctored news or no news at all.

THE TANTALUS INCIDENT.

The House took up the question of the Tantalus forest yesterday in a way that did it credit. For a wonder it did not abuse itself before the Federal fetich and whisper "The King can do no wrong," but instead of that stood up for the right of the Territory with zeal and self-respect. The sight was a refreshing one, and it must raise the House in popular esteem.

There has grown up a habit in certain quarters to crook the back in deep humility and put dust on the head whenever a newly-commissioned Federal official, fresh from Pottawottamie or Kalamazoo or Mouselamaguntie, deigns to inform the people of the Territory what he proposes to do to them. It is customary to hear a bleat of adulation from the vealy Bulletin whenever a Federal official lands on the dock. Back in the States, where most of our white people came from, no particular awe ever attaches to Federal officials, least of all to those who are sent to the distant Territories because men at Washington are tired of their importunities for a job at home. In that level-headed country an official, Federal or otherwise, is judged by his merits and not by his commission. If he knows his business and carries it on with propriety he is respected; if not he is criticised or complained of. That is the American way, and it is a good enough way for Hawaii.

One of the laughable incidents of the present controversy—both laughable and pathetic—is the belly-crawling of the Bulletin to the feet of the director of the Experiment Station to assure him of public confidence in the idea that the Department of Agriculture can never make a mistake. We imagine Mr. Smith's sneer at the silly compliment. If the statement had any truth it would be high time to take the word "experiment" out of the agricultural work and substitute that of "fulfillment." Nobody knows better than Mr. Smith how many failures his department has scored, and that such failures, in a purely experimental work, are bound to happen. We presume that he, being a man of sense, also acknowledges the right of Territorial criticism in matters like the clearing of fifteen acres of forest—or were there but twelve?—to provide a farm of exhausted soil for experiments that might better have been conducted on good land elsewhere in the island. That is the main point made by men like ex-Governor Cleghorn and Professor Koebele, who know more about the conditions of agriculture in Oahu than do all hands in the Department of Agriculture put together.

As the case stands, the position of the island experts that, if Tantalus is the only proper site for a Government farm, a small tract should have been tried before a large one was devastated, is perfectly sound. It is not impossible that Mr. Smith, who is acting under orders from an omniscient chief living 5,000 miles northeast of here, may think so himself.

PORTO RICAN LABOR

The latest Bulletin of the Department of Labor, issued under the editorship of Commissioner Carroll D. Wright, contains an instructive article by Dr. Axel Ames on "Labor Conditions in Porto Rico." The total population of the island is 953,243. Of these 203,792 are urban dwellers and 749,451 live in the country. The effective working population is computed by Dr. Ames to be 601,271. He estimates that at least half of these are wage-earners. Class distinctions, the line between the capitalist and the laborer, are much more marked than in the United States, but the lack of incentive, stimulus and opportunity is held to be the principal cause of the low condition of the laboring men. There is more or less skilled labor and the ordinary trades are all represented, but the fact which most impresses the observer is the superabundance of the lowest grade of unskilled labor. Even planters living within easy reach of the railroads, or of the sea, find it cheaper to transport their coffee, tobacco and other products to the ports on the heads of peons than to use either the railroad, bull carts or boats. The ordinary laborer's wage under Spanish rule was thirty cents a day. The Americans have undertaken to raise it to fifty, but not with great success thus far.

Dr. Ames has compiled a table of wage rates for various occupations. Bakers get \$1 to \$1.50 for a day of twelve to fifteen hours; blacksmiths, \$1.20 to \$1.80 for a day of eight to ten hours; brickmakers, \$1.20 to \$2 for a day of ten to twelve hours; carpenters, \$1 to \$2.50 for ten to twelve hours. These are fair samples of the skilled trades. It is stated, however, that where the wage goes above \$1.20 it is for unusually skilled labor. In the unskilled lines, coffee pickers and cleaners get from twenty to sixty cents a day; ordinary laborers, thirty cents to \$1.20; gardeners, fifty to ninety cents; wood-choppers, thirty to sixty cents; cane cutters, thirty to fifty cents; servants, \$2.50 to \$7 per month. In comparing these wage-rates with those of the United States, it should be kept in mind that the conditions which they most nearly resemble, so far as unskilled labor is concerned, are not those of the North, but of the negroes of the South. While lower than the ordinary prevailing wages in the South, they are not so much lower as to make the contrast surprising.

There is, however, less for the laborer to buy than in any part of this country. His wants, outside of bare subsistence, are few. This is fortunate, for his income is generally required to meet the necessities of bare subsistence—food, shelter, fuel for cooking and clothing, of which he wears only the cheapest and not much of it. The Porto Ricans love to congregate in villages, where their huts bear some resemblance to those of an African kraal, and command a rental of sixty cents to \$1.80 a month. Artisans' houses are rented for two and three times this sum, and the best dwellings with gardens attached are secured for \$30 to \$90 a year. The most pitiful condition in the life of a Porto Rican laborer relates to sickness and death. Medical skill in the country is not good and hospitals are few. Delicacies are generally beyond the reach of the poor. The percentage of mortality among women and children is fearful. One is painfully impressed, whether in the streets of city or town, or in the hill country, by the number of human wrecks, the many beggars, and the sunken-eyed, pallid, anaemic men, women and children. Extreme poverty, inanition and decrepitude are found, and though the island is one of great resources and has a good record for thrift, there is reason to believe that from the earliest days of the Spanish occupation this condition of things as to the laboring classes has been only too prevalent, and at times worse, in some respects, than now.

Perhaps the most striking contrast between the Porto Rican and the American is seen in the burial of the dead. Often extreme poverty permits only a winding sheet for the corpse, which is carried to the grave suspended from a pole borne on the shoulders of two men. And it has not even the privilege of an undisturbed grave, the bones being commonly exhumed after a short time and placed in the ossuary or bone crypt, which is a revolting feature of every cemetery. "One may assert without fear of contradiction," says Dr. Ames, "that the relative cost of sickness and burial, man for man, in the same grade of wage winners in the United States and in Porto Rico would be, as to sickness, as 15 to 1, and in regard to burials, as 20 to 1, or even more. In the United States no expense is spared in either. In Porto Rico none is incurred that it is possible to avoid. The living must be first considered."

The most agreeable reading in the report is the description of improvements under American rule. New sugar enterprises are being started, abandoned lands brought under cultivation, and there are hopeful signs of future prosperity, though the progress thus far has been slow. The exchange of the insular coinage for that of the United States has worked a hardship on the poor. The price of articles of common consumption remains the same in gold that it formerly was in debased currency, while wages have not advanced correspondingly. Ultimately, the change undoubtedly will benefit the island, but it appears to have been made too soon.

In commenting upon the above the Buffalo Express says: "The difference between Porto Rico and other lands which the United States has annexed at earlier periods of its history is emphasized by this account of life in the island. While former acquisitions were wild land open to American settlement and offering a fine field for the expansion of enterprise, Porto Rico presents the problem of elevating a wretched and dense population. It offers no attraction to the emigrant. On the contrary, its people would be glad to immigrate to this country, no doubt, if permitted. Capital is needed, but the one fact which gives promise of large returns from investments is the very cheap labor, and that it must be the chief effort of government to remove."

The fact that people are using more sugar than they raise—an event, it is needless to say, of very recent origin—should encourage sugar investment. Despite wide areas of land coming under cultivation for beet and cane, the supply of sugar is short of the demand, and the demand is all the while increasing. The study of the per capita consumption of sugar is a curious one, in that it shows how the use of saccharine material and the taste for it is steadily

growing. For instance, individual consumption of sugar in the United States has grown from 36 pounds in 1877 to 65.2 in 1900. The showing in Great Britain is even more remarkable, all tending to prove that the sugar-growers must hustle to keep up with the expanding market.

By the way, did the Grand Jury inquire why Tramway Pain paid Theresa's \$300 milk bill, and what relation that fact had upon the intensely favorable attitude of the Wilcox heels in the Legislature towards Pain's Tramway franchise measure? Or was the milk bill story another case of newspaper gossip?

It is currently reported that the books of the Home Rulers, showing the funds received for the entertainment (at Nolte's) of the country members of the Legislature reveal credits of \$3. These books were called for with the court's usual ostentation, but they do not seem to have been mentioned in the Grand Jury's report.

If Hawaii ever joins California, it will at least have an American voting franchise, a boon which Congress denied it in the terms of the Organic Act.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

He Had His Fresh Air, All Right.

A Philadelphian who has just returned from a brief business trip to Germany tells an amusing story regarding the experiences of a fellow American on a German train. He was locked in a stuffy little compartment with three officers of the German army, who smoked such atrocious tobacco that the American, for the simple purpose of self-preservation, was finally forced to open a window. A concentrated grunt and a concentrated glare from the officers greeted this action, for the night was cold, and the Germans do not, as a rule, care for fresh air. No request, not even a command, came from them, but one arose majestically stalked to the window and shut it down without looking at the audacious American. The American opened the window again, with the suave, well-pleased smile of a man who is about to bestow some beneficence upon humanity. The officers stared and glared at him more fixedly than ever. They were unaccustomed to such insubordination toward one of their guild on the part of a mere civilian. Then he of majestic strut again arose and brought the window down with a bang which threatened to break the glass. He looked at the American this time, and plainly dared him to reopen it. The American showed no sign of being ruffled as he placidly raised the sash, and continued to read his novel with unabated zest. The German said something which the American did not understand, shut the window and stood beside it. The American looked sweetly at the closed sash and calmly pushed his elbow through the glass, beating the window into fragments, and again turned to his novel. He was very calm, but there was a gleam in his eyes that the Germans did not like. The latter returned to his place, and for the next fifteen minutes there was an antiphonal chorus from the three officers, of double-pointed, double-twisted German oaths. The American read his novel with undisturbed serenity.

The Girls' Brigade in Line.

A unique feature of the Grand Army parade in Allegheny City, Pa., on Decoration Day was a military company composed of uniformed girls and equipped with all the accoutrements of soldiers. It is known as the Girls' Brigade, and is composed of the older girls of the Sixth Ward schools of Allegheny. Each member of the military company is the proud possessor of a light gun. The uniform consists of an electric blue Tam O'Shanter cap with a tan ostrich feather, a red Eton jacket with gold braid, a white skirt and brown leggings. The uniform of the officers of the company, who are also girls, includes, besides the white skirt and brown leggings, a gold braided military cap with a white plume, and a semi-military coat with epaulets. Each officer carries a sword.

A Millionaire Laborer.

The eccentricities of a young millionaire follower of the teachings of Count Tolstoi are vastly puzzling the good people of the village of Woodbridge, N. J. With practically unlimited means at his command, George Ruddy Jr., son of one of the richest men in the State of New Jersey and a college graduate who has enjoyed the advantages of foreign travel, prefers the life of the humblest toiler. Clad in blue jeans and cowhide boots he literally wrests his livelihood from the unwilling soil of a tiny farm, the smallest and most worthless corner of his father's vast estate. According to his philosophical creed poverty is the only incentive to intellectual effort.

Says Little Men Are Better Fighters.

A surgeon of the British army who has had much experience in passing recruits argues for little men for fighting purposes, believing that the idea is old and obsolete that a man cannot be a good and efficient soldier unless he measures a certain number of feet and inches in height. In modern warfare, where the issue of every fight is usually decided at a distance, stature counts for little, and is rather a disadvantage than otherwise. This officer suggests the reducing to a minimum of five feet the standard height of all recruits for mounted infantry and light cavalry.

Quite Like Sousa.

Ex-Vassar girls enjoy recalling when Miss Sousa, the daughter of the so-called March King, was with them at college. She played the piano exactly as her father leads his band, all his poses and mannerisms being as faithfully reproduced as if she were "taking him off" instead of unconsciously exemplifying the laws of heredity. It was the great delight of the other girls when they had visitors to get Miss Sousa, uninvited, to play the piano and then have the visitors exclaim, as they invariably did, "Why, she reminds me of Sousa."

Sarah's Alcohol Bath.

Since Sarah Bernhardt's return to Paris the great tragedienne has confided to an American friend that she finds much aid for the preservation of her perennial youth in a certain kind of sponge bath. It consists of half a pint of alcohol, two ounces of spirits of camphor, two ounces of spirits of ammonia, five ounces of sea salt, and enough boiling water to make one quart. The whole should be agitated thoroughly, and then rubbed into the skin with the bare hands. The result is exquisite refreshment to tired muscles and jaded spirit.

Nothing Tastes Good

And eating is simply perfunctory—done because it must be.

This is the common complaint of the dyspeptic.

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